“A TIMELESS LEGACY: THE PAIJAN THROUGH GENERATION”

About the object:

The object selected for this project is an old traditional Indian paijan (anklet) belonging to my mother. It is a piece of jewellery that has been preserved in our family for many years and carries both cultural and emotional value.

The paijan was worn by my mother during/around her marriage, making it more than just an ornament. It represents the traditions, customs and memories associated with an important stage of her life.

Historical & Cultural Significance

Paijan has been an important part of traditional Indian jewellery for centuries. Traditionally, anklets were worn by women as an ornament around the feet and were commonly associated with marriage, femininity, beauty and cultural traditions.

The sound of the small bells attached to some traditional paijans was also considered an important part of their beauty. Different regions of India have their own styles, designs and methods of making anklets.

This old paijan gives us a small glimpse into the jewellery traditions of earlier generations. Traditional jewellery is a part of India's rich cultural heritage. The making of jewellery involves knowledge of design, craftsmanship, metalwork and traditional artistic skills that have been passed down through generations.

This paijan represents the idea of knowledge and traditions being preserved within families. Instead of being simply an old piece of jewellery, it acts as a physical connection between the past and the present. This paijan is special because it belongs to my mother and is connected to her marriage. It reminds us of her memories and the traditions followed by earlier generations.

For me, it is a symbol of love, family, tradition and heritage. Preserving such objects helps us remember our cultural roots and understand how traditional practices continue from one generation to another.

“An old object may lose its newness with time, but it never loses the story it carries.”

This paijan is therefore not just jewellery—it is a small piece of our family history and Indian cultural heritage.

Name: Priya Rajendra Kanojiya